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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/524,018 | 02/09/2005 | Murray Douglas Jones | 4505-1037 | 7567 |

466 7590 11/28/2006

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ARLINGTON, VA 22202

EXAMINER

VALENTI, ANDREA M

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3643

DATE MAILED: 11/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/524,018

Applicant(s)

JONES ET AL.

Examiner

Andrea M. Valenti

Art Unit

3643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 September 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-22 and 25-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-33 and 40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 34-39 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 29 and 32 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 29, line 5-6, "from the slot extends," should be --from which the first slot extends,--

Claim 32, line 7, "from the first slot extends" should be --from which the first slot extends--

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 32, 33, 18-28 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 32 recites the limitation "the peripheral edge" in line 7 and "the edges" in line 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 40 recites the limitation "the peripheral edge" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claims 33 and 18-28 are rejected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,355,444 to Haney.

Regarding Claim 29, Haney teaches a clip including a body (Haney Fig. 1), a first opening within the body (Haney Fig. 1 opening near #22) and a first slot (Haney Fig. 1 #24) extending between the first opening and an edge of the body, a second opening (Haney Fig. 1 #23) within the body and a second slot (Haney Fig. 1 #25) extending between the second opening and edge of the body which is opposite to that from the slot extends, the first and second slots each being of doglegged (Haney slot in combination with opening is a dogleg) form and which extends from a widened mouth (Haney #24 and 25 have widened mouths near the edge) at the edge of the body, the clip being symmetrical about a central longitudinal axis (Haney Fig. 1 #26).

Regarding Claim 30, Haney teaches the each opening is circular shape (Haney Fig. 1 #22 and 23 have a portion of a circular shape).

Claims 29, 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,575,446 to Swenson.

Regarding Claim 29, Swenson teaches a clip including a body (Swenson width of #10, 15, and 18), a first opening (Swenson #21) within the body and a first slot (Swenson #13) extending between the first opening and an edge of the body, a second opening (Swenson #22) within the body and a second slot (Swenson #14) extending between the second opening and edge of the body which is opposite to that from the slot extends, the first and second slots each being of doglegged form (Swenson #16 and 19) and which extends from a widened mouth at the edge of the body (Swenson Fig. 1 #17, 10 and 20 create the widened mouth), the clip being symmetrical about a central longitudinal axis (Swenson Fig. 1).

Regarding Claim 30, Swenson teaches each opening is circular in shape (Swenson #21 and 22).

Regarding Claim 31, Swenson teaches the diameter of the first and second opening is greater than the diameter of the other first and second openings (Swenson #21 is greater than #22).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 32 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Claims 33, 18-28, and 40 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 34-39 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 18 September 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Examiner maintains that Swenson teaches the structural limitations of a first slot of doglegged form (Swenson Fig. 1 #13) extending from a widened mouth (Swenson Fig. 1 #17 and 10) at the edge of the body and a second slot of doglegged (Swenson Fig. 1 #14) form extending from a mouth (Swenson Fig. 1 #20 and 10) at the edge of the body. Applicant has not structurally defined "the edge" of the body. All of the elements combine make up the body of Swenson and all of the elements have a width that creates the body. Thus each element has an edge which is equivalent to the edge of the body.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

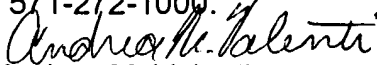
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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrea M. Valenti whose telephone number is 571-272-6895. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00am-5:30pm M-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter M. Poon can be reached on 571-272-6891. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Andrea M. Valenti
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3643

27 November 2006